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punch, and the upper unsupported part of the punch should be as short as it can conveniently be made. The block, as well as the upper and the lower punch, should be hardened and then tempered to a straw colour, to enable them to bear the long-continued action of the hammer.

The disk of metal is got out by withdrawing the upper punch, and then placing the block over a hole larger than its own; a long punch being then put in, a few blows of the hammer will force out the short punch and the condensed metal.

C. VARLEY.

A. AIKIN, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

No. XVI.

IMPROVED FRENCH WINDOW.

The SILVER ISIS MEDAL and FIVE POUNDS were presented to Mr. R. PARVIN, 3, Carpenter Street, Mount Street, Berkeley Square, for his improved French Window; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.

THOSE windows which open by folding leaves instead of by sashes are commonly called French windows. The objection to their use in a damp and cold climate is the difficulty of making the leaves fit so closely as to exclude the wet and the wind. Endeavours have been made (and with more or less success) to attain this object by the use of springs and levers fixed to the lower part of the leaves, on the same principle as those attached to the entrance-doors of parlours and other rooms. Such contrivances, however, are costly, and are liable to want frequent repairs. Mr. Parvin has invented a simpler method of answering the same purpose, which, on trial, has been found to be quite effectual.

Plate XI. Fig. 12 is a view looking down on the sill, the uprights of the window being in section.

Figs. 13 and 14, a section across the middle of the sill at the dotted line *a b* of fig. 12.

Fig. 15, an outside view of the middle portion of the sill, and of the door feet when shut.

c c the outside, and *d d* the inside, of the sill; *e e* the window-post at the right side of the window; *f*, fig. 12, the lower hinge of the window; *g*, part of the left leaf, and *h* the right leaf; *i* and *j*, two hook mouldings by which the windows fit together, instead of the common rebate; *k*, a ridge rising from the sill under the window; it forms the stop against which the window shuts, the outer portion of the window-foot being removed to pass over it; *l l*, a flap the whole length of the window-sill, to which it is jointed by staples *m; n* and *o* are apron-slips on each leaf of the window, lower than the top of the flap, but high enough to pass over the ridge *k;* therefore, on opening the window, it pulls down the flap, which falls against the ridge *k*, as in fig. 13; and that it may be lifted up on shutting the window, a tooth *p* is inserted near the middle end of the right leaf: in fig. 13 it is shewn as just touching the flap to begin raising it, and in fig. 14 as holding it up, the window being closed. The left leaf can shut without lifting the flap *l*, it having no tooth, because if it held the flap up, the right leaf could not open unless the flap was divided into two, each being lifted by its own side of the window. In the arched cavity at the window-foot is a longitudinal groove *q*, fig. 13; if, therefore, any portion of rain, in running down the window, should be blown between the slips *n o* and the flap *l*, it would sputter against the top of the cavity and drop from the corner of the groove *q*, thus leaving the fitting of the door against the ridge *k* perfectly dry; and whatever water may get within the flap will run down the sill from under the flap.

No. XVII.

PUMP FOR RACKING WINE.

The large SILVER MEDAL *was presented to Mr. W. H.* HILTON, *7, Regent Street, for his Pump for Racking Wine; a Drawing of which is in the Society's Repository.*

IT is a general complaint among wine-merchants, that the finer and higher-flavoured kinds of light wine are often seriously injured by the loss or alteration of their aroma (called in the trade the *bouquet*), in consequence of exposure to the air during the process of racking, or transferring them from one cask to another. In crowded warehouses, where the casks are placed tier above tier, there is also great difficulty in drawing off the wine from the ground tier without spilling a considerable quantity.